



News Release

PRESS OFFICE/LOS ANGELES

Release Date: August 4, 2008
Release #: 08-31

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Spirit of Small Business Awards Flying High in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties

(LOS ANGELES, CA) – Nine outstanding businesses will be recognized at the Spirit of Small Business awards luncheon scheduled for Thursday, August 14th from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM at the Fess Parker's DoubleTree Resort located at 633 East Cabrillo Blvd., Santa Barbara, CA.

Since 2003, The Pacific Coast Business Times and the Los Angeles District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration have sponsored this event to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of small businesses. Winners are chosen by industry leadership, sustainability, job creation and community awareness. The Spirit of Small Business luncheon is now the premier business event featuring the Santa Barbara and Ventura county business community.

Award Recipients for 2008 are:

- East Ventura County Small Business of the Year: Phone On Hold Marketing Systems
- West Ventura Small Business of the Year: Aspen Helicopters
- South Santa Barbara County Small Business of the Year: Signature Woodworks
- North Santa Barbara County Small Business of the Year: Joseph Engineering
- Minority-Owned Small Business of the Year: Textile Waste Solutions
- Woman-Owned Small Business of the Year: Consortium Media Services
- Veteran-Owned Small Business of the Year: Global Energy & Technology
- Green Business: Lassen's Natural Food
- Small Business Advocate of the Year: Bob Hatch – Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce

“Every year it is exciting to see the diversity in businesses that are represented in the Spirit of Small Business awards. This capacity for success is testimony to the sound resilience of the Santa Barbara and Ventura county business community, which continues to grow year after year. Furthermore, I am pleased that the SBA contributed significantly to this growth over the last three years by infusing \$263 million in loans into the local

economy to 1,195 businesses, which in turn created and/or retained 6,575 jobs,” said Alberto G. Alvarado, Los Angeles SBA District Director.

The keynote speaker will be Monica Lozano, Publisher and Chief Executive Officer of *La Opinión*, the nation’s largest Spanish language daily newspaper, as well as Sr. Vice President of Newspapers of ImpreMedia LLC, the corporation overseeing the newspaper chain.

Lozano serves on the Board of Directors of the Walt Disney Company and Bank of America Corporation. In 2001, she was appointed to the University of California Board of Regents and has served on the Board of Trustees of the University of Southern California since 1990. She sits on the boards of the Weingart Foundation and the National Council of La Raza.

The SBA Los Angeles District Office is ranked “No.1” in the country in lending and oversees SBA programs to over 12 million people in Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties. The office manages a loan portfolio that assists in financing more than 6,194 businesses and nearly \$1.3 billion yearly and generates annual contract procurements of \$451 million. In addition, the district office supervises eight Small Business Development Centers, coordinates five chapters of the Service Corps of Retired Executives and oversees five Women’s Business Centers.

The Pacific Coast Business Times is the weekly business journal for Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties. The Business Times has been publishing since March 17, 2000 and is locally owned with offices located in downtown Santa Barbara. The paper is delivered to subscribers' offices and homes each Friday.

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